
RESTRICTED WEAPONS HUNTS

Bow and arrow or muzzleloaders may be used to hunt during any open season unless otherwise restricted.

“Certified bowhunters only” or “bow and arrow only” or “muzzleloader only” hunts or areas specifically exclude the use of other weapons including crossbows.

License requirement for all hunts: You must be in possession of a resident or nonresident hunting license and appropriate harvest ticket, permit and locking tag. **No special license or stamp is required.**

ARCHERY/BOW AND ARROW

Restrictions for all game in archery only areas: In any hunt or area specifically restricted to bow and arrow only, you may:

- NOT hunt with a crossbow
- NOT hunt with a bow designed to shoot more than one arrow at a time
- NOT hunt with expanding gas arrows
- NOT hunt using chemicals or poisons or substances that temporarily incapacitate wildlife

Equipment: You may:

- NOT hunt **big game** with a bow unless:
 - (a) the bow is at least:
 - (1) 40 pounds peak draw weight when hunting black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep, and caribou;
 - (2) 50 pounds peak draw weight when hunting mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox, and bison;
 - (b) the arrow is tipped with a broadhead, at least 20 inches in overall length, and at least 300 grains in total weight;
 - (c) the broadhead is:
 - (1) a fixed, replaceable or mechanical/retractable blade type broadhead when taking black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep and caribou;
 - (2) a fixed or replaceable blade type broadhead for taking mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, muskox and bison; and
 - (3) not barbed
- NOT use electronic devices or light attached to the bow, arrow, or arrowhead with the exception of a non-illuminating camera or a lighted nock on the end of the arrow;
- NOT use scopes or other devices attached to the bow or arrow for optical enhancement
- NOT use any mechanical device that anchors a nocked arrow at full or partial draw unaided by the bowhunter

BOWHUNTER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

You may:

- NOT hunt with a bow and arrow in any hunt or area with weapon restrictions for the taking of **big game** unless you have first successfully completed a department approved bow hunting education course (IBEP or equivalent).
- NOT apply for drawing permit hunts restricting the taking of **big game** to archery only unless you have first successfully completed a department approved bow hunting education course (IBEP or equivalent).

Bowhunters wishing to hunt black bears over bait are required to complete an IBEP course if hunting in Units 7 and 14-16, and a department approved bear baiting course if registering in Units 7, 14A, 14B, 15, 16A, and 20B.

The department currently offers the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) course through volunteer instructors. The course includes a shooting proficiency test. Names of instructors and course dates are available at regional Fish and Game offices.

Definitions:

- **“bow”** means a longbow, recurve bow or compound bow; that is, a device for launching an arrow which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs. The device must be hand-held and hand-drawn by a single and direct pulling action of the bowstring by the shooter with the shooter's fingers or a hand-held or wrist-attached release aid. The energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from hydraulic, pneumatic, explosive or mechanical devices, but may be derived from the mechanical advantage provided by wheels or cams so long as the available energy is stored in the bent limbs of the bow. No portion of the bow's riser (handle) or an attachment to the bow's riser may contact, support or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bowstring when strung and at rest. “Bow” does not include a crossbow or any device which has a gun-type stock or incorporates any mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power;
- **“broadhead”** means an arrowhead with two or more sharp cutting edges having a minimum cutting diameter of seven-eighths (7/8) inch;
- **“bow peak draw weight”** means the peak poundage at which the bow is drawn through or held at full draw by the shooter at the shooter's draw length;

- “**mechanical or retractable broadhead**” means a broadhead with cutting edges that are retracted during flight and open upon impact to a minimum cutting diameter of not less than seven-eighths inch (7/8”) and does not lock open after impact to create fixed barbs;

- “**barbed**”: an arrowhead with any fixed portion of the rear edge of the arrowhead forming an angle less than 90 degrees with the shaft when measured from the nock end of the arrow;

MUZZLELOADER

You may:

- NOT use a muzzleloading rifle for hunting big game unless such a firearm is at least .45 caliber or larger; and
- NOT use a muzzleloading rifle equipped with a scope, during any permitted, registered, or special season hunt for muzzleloading rifles only.

MUZZLELOADER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

You may:

- NOT hunt with a muzzleloading rifle in any hunt or area with weapon restrictions for the taking of **big game** unless you have successfully completed a department-approved muzzleloader hunter education course that includes ballistic limitations of muzzleloading weapons and a proficiency test.

SHOTGUN HUNTER EDUCATION

You may:

- NOT hunt with a shotgun in a restricted weapons hunt unless you have successfully completed a department-approved basic hunter education course.

RESTRICTED WEAPON HUNTS: See details listed under the appropriate Unit.

Unit 1C (portion of)

- bow and arrow - goat

Unit 3

- bow and arrow - elk and deer

Unit 7

- Portage Glacier Closed Area - bow with blunt-tipped arrow, shotgun, slingshot, or falconry - small game

Unit 8

- bow and arrow or muzzleloading rifle - deer
- bow and arrow - goat

Unit 14A

- bow and arrow - moose

Palmer-Wasilla Management Area

- bow and arrow, black powder firearm, shotgun with slugs - big game
- bow and arrow, black powder firearm, shotgun, air rifle or falconry - small game, fur animals

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area

- no firearms - all game

Unit 14B

- bow and arrow - moose

Unit 14C

- bow and arrow - mountain goat, sheep
- Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge - bow and arrow, shotgun, or falconry - small game
- Anchorage Management Area - bow and arrow, muzzleloading rifle, or shotgun - moose
- air rifle with rifled barrel, bow and arrow (with blunts and other special small game points) and falconry - deleterious exotic wildlife.
- falconry - small game
- Birchwood Management Area - bow and arrow - moose, bow and arrow, shotgun or air rifle - small game
- air rifle with rifled barrel, bow and arrow (with blunts and other special small game points) and falconry - deleterious exotic wildlife.

- Fort Richardson Management Area - bow and arrow or muzzleloading rifle - moose

- Elmendorf Air Force Base - bow and arrow - moose

- Eagle River Management Area - bow and arrow and muzzleloading rifle - black bear, small game

- air rifle with rifled barrel, bow and arrow (with blunts and other special small game points) and falconry - deleterious exotic wildlife.

- Eklutna Lake Management Area - bow and arrow - moose, sheep, black bear, or small game

Unit 15A

- Skilak Loop Management Area - bow and arrow - small game

- bow and arrow - moose

Unit 15B (portion of)

- bow and arrow - moose

Unit 16A

- bow and arrow - moose

Unit 20A

- Healy-Lignite Management Area - bow and arrow - big game, small game, or fur animals

Unit 20B

- Fairbanks Management Area - bow and arrow - moose
- Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge - muzzleloading rifle - moose
- Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River and the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek - bow and arrow - moose
- Lost Lake Closed Area no firearm - big game

Units 20F, 24, 25A,D and 26B

- Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area - bow and arrow - big game, small game, or fur animals.